



Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire

December 2007 Newsletter
Keeping You Informed!

Please send inquiries or feedback to Joan Ascheim:
IPHNH@dhhs.state.nh.us

*A Statewide Effort organized
by the New Hampshire
Department of Health and
Human Services, Division of
Public Health Services*

[Public Health
Improvement Services
Council minutes and
membership list are
available on the DHHS
website](#)

About Our Newsletter

Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire! Our newsletter is intended to keep stakeholders informed on key public health planning and performance improvement initiatives in New Hampshire.

The Public Health Improvement Services Council Update

HB 491 establishing the Public Health Improvement Services Council was signed into law on June 28, 2007. The council will sustain the oversight of the public health improvement efforts that began with the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP). The Council is fortunate to be chaired by Representative Trinka Russell and to have Senator John Gallus among its members. A membership list and minutes can be found on our website.

At the November meeting the council endorsed *A Call to Action*, a document drafted by the Mobilizing Community Partnerships PHIAP Work Group. *A Call to Action* recommends that there be support for broad-based collaborative partnerships rather than the creation of new single-issue coalitions. At future meetings the council will review suggested action steps related to this endorsement.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2008 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Health and Human Services Building on Hazen Drive.

[Public Health Regionalization
Task Force membership list,
minutes and presentations
are available on the DHHS
website](#)

What's New with Public Health Regionalization?

The Division of Public Health Services is convening a Public Health Regionalization Initiative task force with the goal to develop a performance-based public health delivery system, which provides the 10 essential public health services throughout New Hampshire. The group meets monthly and posts all minutes, presentations, meeting dates and locations on the Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire website. Meetings are open to interested parties.

At the November meeting it was proposed that there be a two-tiered system, comprised of primary and comprehensive public health agencies. The group worked to define key staff for a primary agency. The Division of Public Health Services also delineated what the state's role at the local or regional level would look like going forward.

Proposed staffing for a primary health entity and staff to be shared regionally emerged as shown below. Consensus on the absolute need for a public health nurse could not be reached after lengthy debate.

What is Public Health?

New Hampshire adopted the Institute of Medicine definition:

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Proposed Staffing for a Regional Public Health System

Proposed Primary Public Health Agency Staff	Proposed Shared Regional Staff
Qualified Administrator	Epidemiologist
Support Staff	Financial Manager
Health Educator/Marketing	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Nurse (?)	IT Support
Environmental Health Specialist	Medical Consultant

Two Public Health Networks, Northern Strafford County Health and Safety Council and Cheshire Public Health Network, provided reactions to the plan and proposed what their regions might look like going forward.

At the December meeting, the Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers reacted to the proposed regionalization plan and what it might mean for their region.

Task force members divided into groups and, using regions as case studies, attempted to answer a set of questions designed to begin to visualize regional maps and public health structures. Those questions were:

- Are there any natural regions that emerge?
- What might your region/area of the state look like on a map?
- How might your public health agency connect with a governmental organization?
- How might your public health agency be organized?
- Who should be involved in the conversation from the region(s) being discussed?
- What might be the points of tension?
- What additional information is needed to make recommendations for the regions going forward?
- What processes do you see going forward to determine regions?

Task force members found this to be a challenging but valuable exercise. They believe there would be merit in doing similar case studies for existing Public Health Network and All Health Hazard Regions in the state. This will be arranged. Various models of linking to governmental organizations will also be explored for future meetings.

Work group action plans and presentations are posted on the website

Visit Our Website!!!

Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/iphnh.htm>

What's Happening in the PHIAP Work Groups?

PHIAP work groups continue to meet and carry out vital public health performance improvement initiatives based on the six Public Health Strategic Priorities. We applaud the work group members for continuing to volunteer their time for this initiative. It speaks to the power of partnerships.

**New Hampshire's Six
Public Health
Performance Strategic
Priorities**

- 1) Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
- 2) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
- 3) Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems
- 4) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- 5) Develop a communication plan
- 6) Workforce Development

Inform and Educate

Work Group Leaders – Mary Ann Cooney and Ned Helms

This group continues to discuss the creation of an inventory of public health promotion activities that would be available via the web. A survey is being developed to gather this information from public health partners. The survey will ask respondents to note what best practices they have based their health promotion activities on. Building on knowledge gleaned from the Citizens' Health Initiative Report, *A Pound of Prevention*, <http://www.steppingupnh.org/>, the inventory will begin by listing initiatives that address the leading contributors of death in New Hampshire: tobacco, physical activity, nutrition and alcohol. The next group meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2008 from 1:00- 3:00 PM, in the Lab Training Room of the Health and Human Services Building on Hazen Drive.

Monitoring Health Status

Work Group Leaders – Karla Armenti and Amy Costello

This group is continuing to focus on how to get local data out to public health partners who need it for public health initiatives. They will be working with staff from the Citizens Health Initiative and the Division of Public Health Services to define solid measures for data related to tobacco, physical activity, nutrition and alcohol.

Mobilizing Community Partnerships

Work Group Leaders - Jonathan Stewart and Aviva Meyer

Members from this group are finalizing a survey to obtain information on community partnerships that exist around the state that would be available on the web. This group shares the same vision as the Inform and Educate group, to place this information on a website for all public health partners. Initially it was thought that one survey could collect both sets of information, but these will likely be two separate surveys.

The group will also draft action steps related to the *Call to Action* (see Public Health Improvement Services Council) for the Council to consider related to broad-based partnerships.

Develop Policies and Plans

Work Group Leaders – Kate Frey and Elaine Frank

This work group reviewed the first draft of the Public Health Improvement Action Plan report to be published to document PHIAP's work and future plans. They provided valuable feedback that will be incorporated into the revised report. A January 2008 publication date is anticipated.

Develop a Communication Plan

Work Group Leaders – NH Public Health Association and Nancy Clark

The New Hampshire Public Health Association and the Glen Group have begun work on a public health communication campaign, generously funded by the Endowment for Health. Focus groups were held in eight locations throughout the state to gauge perceptions of public health in New Hampshire. Information gleaned through the focus groups will be used to inform a campaign which will be launched in 2008.

Workforce Development

Work Group Leaders - Rosemary Caron, Holly Tutko, Rosemary Orgren and Thom Flynn

This group has agreed to use TRAIN, a web-based learning management system that can be utilized to post public health learning training and track competencies. They will be working on marketing TRAIN to training providers. To view TRAIN visit www.nh.train.org

Future meetings will focus on workforce competency initiatives.

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About Our Newsletter

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The Public Health Improvement Services Council Convenes

HB 491 establishing the Public Health Improvement Services Council was signed into law on June 28, 2007. The council will sustain the oversight of the public health improvement efforts that began with the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP).

The Council is fortunate to be chaired by Representative Trinka Russell and to have Senator John Gallus among its members. Other members include some who previously served on PHIAP and bring substantial knowledge and history of improvement initiatives to date. Joining the PHIAP members are some partners new to the process that can bring a fresh perspective. A membership list can be found on our website.

The Council has held two meetings to date. These have primarily focused on a review of the work of PHIAP and PHIAP work groups. In the future, minutes will be posted to the Improving the Public's Health website.

The next meeting is on October 18, 2007 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM in the Health and Human Services Building on Hazen Drive.

What's Happening in the PHIAP Work Groups?

PHIAP work groups continue to meet and carry out vital public health performance improvement initiatives based on the six Public Health Strategic Priorities. Work group members are to be applauded for continuing to volunteer their time for this initiative. It speaks to the power of partnerships.

Inform and Educate

Work Group Leaders – Mary Ann Cooney and Ned Helms

This group met in July to discuss the creation of an inventory of public health promotion activities and partners that would be available via the web. A survey is being developed to gather this information from public health partners. Building on knowledge gleaned from the Citizens' Health Initiative Report, *A Pound of Prevention*, <http://www.steppingupnh.org/>, the inventory will begin by listing initiatives that address the leading contributors of death in New Hampshire, tobacco, physical activity and nutrition and alcohol. The next group meeting is October 25, 2007 from 3:00- 5:00 PM, in the Health and Human Services Building on Hazen Drive.

What is Public Health?

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Monitoring Health Status

Work Group Leaders – Karla Armenti and Amy Costello

This group is focusing on how to get local data out to public health partners who need it for public health initiatives. At the next meeting they will be working with staff from the Citizens Health Initiative to define solid measures for data related to tobacco, physical activity and nutrition, and alcohol.

Mobilizing Community Partnerships

Work Group Leaders - Jonathan Stewart and Aviva Meyer

Members from this group are working with the Inform and Educate work group to combine their respective surveys. The survey will obtain information on community partnerships that exist around the state while learning about health promotion activities. This group shares the same vision as the Inform and Educate group to place this information on a website for all public health partners. Stay tuned.

Develop Policies and Plans

Work Group Leaders – Kate Frey and Elaine Frank

This work group will assist in editing the Public Health Improvement Action Plan report to be published to document PHIAP's work and future plans.

Develop a Communication Plan

Work Group Leaders – NH Public Health Association and Nancy Clark

The communication group is *very excited* to announce it will be receiving a grant from the Endowment for Health to fund a public health communication campaign for NH. The New Hampshire Public Health Association and the Glen Group will carry out the campaign. Focus groups will be held during the fall to learn what stakeholders understand about public health in New Hampshire. Thank you to our wonderful partners at the Endowment for Health!

Work group action plans and presentations are posted on the website

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Workforce Development

Work Group Leaders - Rosemary Caron, Holly Tutko, Rosemary Orgren and Thom Flynn

This group has agreed to use TRAIN, a web-based learning management system that can be utilized to post public health learning training and track competencies. They will be working on marketing TRAIN to training providers. To view TRAIN visit www.nh.train.org

One of the items on this group's work plan is to examine competencies for public health workers. Fred Ruscsek is working as a consultant to New Hampshire's Multi-State Learning Collaborative grant that addresses quality improvement initiatives. In this role he will be researching and drafting a framework for public health workforce competency for New Hampshire. This will inform the work of the group.

To see who is participating on the Public Health Regionalization Task Force and to view minutes and presentations go to our website at:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/iphnh.htm>

Note: These materials are in the process of being added to the IPHNNH website. If you don't find them the first time you look, check back in a few days. Thanks!

What's Happening with Public Health Regionalization?

As you are likely well aware, there are many maps defining different regions for various public health activities within New Hampshire. In an effort to better align some of these regions, the Division of Public Health Services is convening a public health regionalization task force. The goal of the group is to develop a performance-based public health delivery system, which provides the 10 essential public health services throughout New Hampshire. The group has met twice and is taking the following approach as it addresses this formidable task.

The task force and DPHS envision a system that will:

- Be structured as a tiered system of public health regionalization that recognizes varying resources, infrastructure and capacity to carry out core public health functions and the 10 essential services at different levels.
- Be organized in a way that recognizes geographic features, existing health care infrastructure and population.
- Have one public health agency per region that must be - or be associated with - a governmental agency that coordinates or is responsible for the 10 essential services. The agency may subcontract or create memoranda of understanding for some essential services.
- Be based on standards for agency infrastructure and performance.
- Be developed in an evolutionary process – some areas may not meet the first tier from the beginning but may move there in time.

We recognize that the creation of such a system may require statutory changes.

We will meet monthly to keep this project on track. Meetings are open to interested parties. Meeting dates and locations and a list of task force members will be posted on our website in the near future. If you don't find them the first time you look, check back again in a few days.

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July 2007 Newsletter
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The Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP)- Final Meeting

Chaired by James Squires, MD, President of the Endowment for Health and Mary Ann Cooney, Director of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), this committee met for the first time in February 2006 to launch a performance improvement plan based on the results of the October 2005 New Hampshire assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS). PHIAP held its last meeting on July 10, 2007.

HB 491 establishing the Public Health Improvement Services Council, was signed into law on June 28, 2007. The council will sustain the oversight of the public health improvement efforts that began with PHIAP. Thank you to Representatives Pilliod, Butynski and MacKay for sponsoring this important legislation.

Mary Ann Cooney thanked all members for their commitment to the PHIAP Advisory Committee and recognized each member with a certificate of appreciation. Special recognition and gifts of appreciation were provided to the Co-Chairs, Jim Squires and Mary Ann Cooney for their leadership. Cheryl Storey was recognized for her hard work in supporting PHIAP and all the associated meetings.



PHIAP Final Meeting

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The Public Health Improvement Services Council

The ***Public Health Improvement Services Council*** will hold its first meeting sometime this summer when it is called to meet by the house member on the committee. It is anticipated that several PHIAP members will serve on the council, assuring some continuity for public health improvement planning. The Division of Public Health will have representation on the council and will keep you informed on its activities.

To see the final text of the bill establishing the council, click on the link below:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2007/HB0491.html>

What About the PHIAP Work Groups?

PHIAP work groups will continue to meet and carry out vital public health performance improvement initiatives. Periodic updates and highlights of work group accomplishments will continue to be sent to you via this newsletter.

Inform and Educate

Work Group Leaders – Mary Ann Cooney and Ned Helms

This group meets next on July 31st from 9:30- 12 in the DPHS Lab Training Room. They will continue discussion about the creation of an inventory of public health activities and partners that would be available via the web

Monitoring Health Status

Work Group Leaders – Karla Armenti and Amy Costello

Be on the look out for a survey coming out from this group to determine what kind of data local public health partners need to carry out their work.

Mobilizing Community Partnerships

Work Group Leaders - Jonathan Stewart and Aviva Meyer

Committee members presented a call to action to PHIAP to facilitate coordination among partnerships. You may receive a survey soon from this group too in an effort to inventory numbers and types of community partnerships.

Develop Policies and Plans

Work Group Leaders – Kate Frey and Elaine Frank

Having been successful in garnering support for HB 491, this work group will assist in editing the Public Health Improvement Action Plan report to be published to document PHIAP's work and future plans.

Develop a Communication Plan

Work Group Leaders – NH Public Health Association and Nancy Clark

The communication group is in a bit of a holding pattern until fall when they will hold focus groups to help shape the public health communication campaign for NH. The NHPHA and Glen Group were not successful in obtaining a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support expansion of this initiative, but are seeking funds elsewhere.

Workforce Development

Work Group Leaders- Rosemary Caron, Holly Tutko, Rosemary Orgren and Thom Flynn

A hands-on focus group was conducted on July 18, 2007 to obtain feedback on TRAIN, a web-based learning management system that could be utilized for this purpose and other public health learning needs. More to come on that. To view TRAIN visit www.nh.train.org . If you have questions about TRAIN or need assistance in registering on TRAIN, contact Thom Flynn at tdflynn@dhhs.state.nh.us or at 603-271-7499.



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News from the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP)

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HB 491 Update – Establishing the Public Health Improvement Services Council

This bill, sponsored by Representatives Pilliod, Butynski and MacKay, creates the public health improvement services council to establish and monitor the implementation of a public health improvement plan. It would continue the work begun under the PHIAP initiative. It was amended and passed the House and the Senate Health and Human Services committee. The next step is for the bill to be heard by the full Senate on May 31, 2007. For more information about the bill, click on the link below:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2007/HB0491.html>

PHIAP Work Groups Making Progress

On March 27, 2007, PHIAP work group members met in Concord to hear about the action plans for all the work groups and to make recommendations for moving forward. Work group leaders were identified for each group and priority next steps were identified. Groups are making great strides forward, see below!

Inform and Educate

Work Group Leaders – Mary Ann Cooney and Ned Helms

A subcommittee of this group met via phone to discuss the creation of an inventory of public health activities and partners that would be available via the web. The vision is that someone could type in "diabetes" for example and see a list of related activities and partners. Work group members will contact the Mobilizing Community Partnerships Work Group to coordinate efforts. The full committee will meet again in July.

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Monitoring Health Status

Work Group Leaders – Karla Armenti and Amy Costello

This group met on May 16, 2007. Karla Armenti presented a summary of the Division of Public Health Services epidemiological capacity. Amy Costello gave an update on the WRQS system, a web-based query system for public health data. The system is being pilot tested with a small group of stakeholders. More widespread implementation is expected after the pilot, which will last approximately two months.

The group began a discussion to define what a NH data center might look like. This discussion will continue at the next meeting on June 20, 2007.

Mobilizing Community Partnerships

Work Group Leaders - Jonathan Stewart and Aviva Meyer

Committee members began working in subgroups on three areas: a call to action to PHIAP to facilitate coordination among partnerships; inventorying numbers and types of coalitions; and conducting a literature search on coalitions. The work group will reconvene to review progress of the committee members.

Develop Policies and Plans

Work Group Leaders – Kate Frey and Elaine Frank

This group has been working to garner support for HB 491 – to establish a public health improvement services council. They were able to mobilize public health partners to testify or write letters on behalf of the bill. They will meet following the outcome of the bill in the legislature to determine future action. Committee members will assist in the review of the Public Health Improvement Action Plan report to be published to document PHIAP's work and future plans.

Develop a Communication Plan

Work Group Leaders – NH Public Health Association and Nancy Clark

Nancy Clark of the Glen Group, the contractor for the communication plan, presented the result of her research on the public's perception of public health and existing public health communication campaigns to the NH Public Health Association (NHPHA) Board and to the Communication Work Group on May 4, 2007. The NHPHA is the lead public health partner on the communication campaign. The work group developed a list of individuals and organizations to serve on focus groups to help shape the public health communication campaign for NH. These focus groups will take place in the fall.

The NHPHA and Glen Group are collaborating in writing a grant to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support expansion of this initiative.

Workforce Development

Work Group Leaders- Rosemary Caron, Holly Tutko, Rosemary Orgren and Thom Flynn

A subcommittee on public health training met on May 17, 2007. Much of the discussion centered on coordinating the mechanics of training offerings and calendars. Hands-on focus groups will be conducted to obtain feedback on TRAIN, a web-based learning management system that could be utilized for this purpose and other public health learning needs. To view TRAIN visit www.nh.train.org . If you have questions about TRAIN or need assistance in registering on TRAIN, contact Thom Flynn at tdflynn@dhhs.state.nh.us or at 603-271-7499.

Money Matters

The UNH Institute for Health Policy and Practices submitted a grant to the Centers for Disease Control to expand our capacity to provide data, through web-based applications, at the local level such as through the expansion of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. We will keep you posted on the outcome of the application.

The Division decided not to apply for funds from the National Library of Medicine (as mentioned in the April newsletter) to create a web-based system through which public health partners can access best practices and health promotion information. The grant did not seem like a good fit for our initiative after a closer look. We will continue to look for funding for a web-based portal to link many of the initiatives of our improvement efforts and will seek your feedback and ideas as we go forward.

An Update on New Hampshire's Multi-State Learning Collaborative Grant

New Hampshire is one of ten states funded to participate in a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project entitled MLC-2 or the Multi-State Learning Collaborative, phase 2. This project convenes states working on public health performance improvement and accreditation of public health agencies to learn best practices from one another. New Hampshire's project goals are:

- 1) To articulate standards and develop measures and a system to evaluate New Hampshire's performance on the six strategic priorities identified through the state National Public Health Performance Standards assessment.
- 2) To develop the technology to collect performance measure data relative to the six strategic priorities and other currently collected performance measure data to enable timely performance monitoring and reporting.
- 3) To develop public health competencies and a certification process for regional public health officers to strengthen our local public health infrastructure.

The Community Health Institute is the grantee for the funds and is working with the Division of Public Health Services, the Manchester Health Department, the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services, and Phoenix Public Health Solutions to carry out the work. Project staff has met twice with other states at national meetings to begin sharing and learning from one another. This is a great opportunity for New Hampshire to be at the forefront of performance improvement in the country.



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HB 491 Update – Establishing the Public Health Improvement Services Council

This bill, sponsored by Representatives Pilliod, Butynski and MacKay, creates the public health services council to establish and monitor the implementation of a public health improvement plan. It would continue the work begun under the PHIAP initiative. It was amended and passed the House and has moved on to the Senate Health and Human Services committee. A hearing will likely take place the first week of May. For more information about the bill, click on the link below.

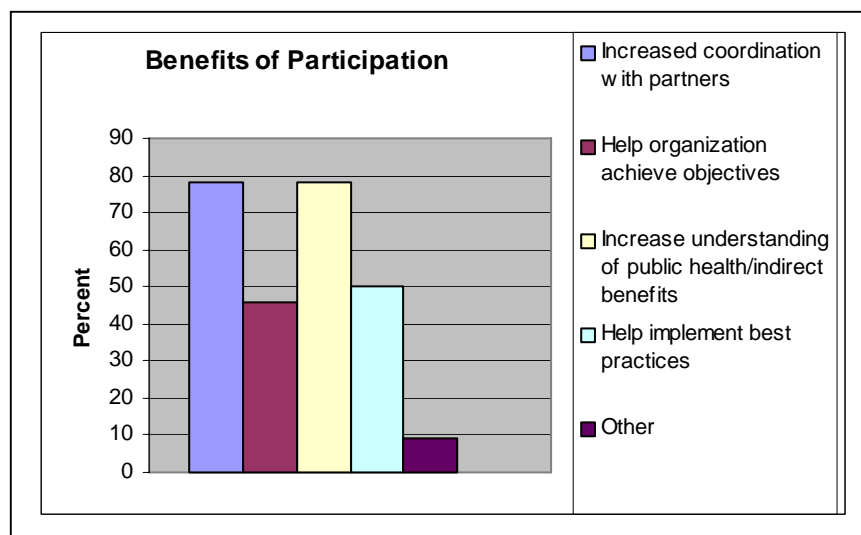
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2007/HB0491.html>

Survey Says!

Thanks to all of you who completed the survey about your participation in the PHIAP initiative. Here's a brief summary of what you told us.

- 74% thought the purpose of the work groups – to create an action plan - was very clear
- 51% thought your work group was very successful in developing an action plan
- 76% thought we were very successful in making this a collaborative process
- 24% are optimistic that the plan will result in action
- 66% are very interested in being part of the implementation of the plan

You noted many benefits to your participation in the initiative (see page 2).



PHIAP Strategic Work Groups Reconvening – A Success! -

On March 27, 2007, 78 PHIAP work group members met in Concord to hear about the action plans for all the work groups and to make recommendations for moving forward. Work group leaders were identified for each group and priority next steps were identified. Each group is setting up its own meetings as they go forward.

Complete work group action plans and presentations are posted on the website

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Work Group/Leaders	Priority/Next Steps
<i>Inform and Educate</i> Mary Ann Cooney, Ned Helms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create tools/mechanisms to increase awareness/coordination of health promotion initiatives ▪ Develop a mechanism to provide Training and Technical Assistance (TA) for providers to enable them to deliver effective and accessible health messages
<i>Monitoring Health Status</i> Karla Armenti, Amy Costello	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a data center in the Division of Public Health Services ▪ Start with development of a business plan for the data center
<i>Mobilizing Community Partnerships</i> Aviva Meyer, Jonathan Stewart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create infrastructure that supports community partnerships ▪ Issue a call to action to the public health improvement services council to facilitate coordination among partnerships ▪ Identify what coalitions currently exist
<i>Develop Policies and Plans</i> Kate Frey, Elaine Frank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow and support passage of HB 491 to establish a public health improvement services council
<i>Develop a Communication Plan</i> Glen Group NH Public Health Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summarize market research on public health ▪ Conduct pre-campaign evaluation with legislators and public health partners
<i>Workforce Development</i> Thomas Flynn, Rosemary Caron, Holly Tutko, Rosemary Orgren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define public health workforce ▪ Research public health core competencies ▪ Coordinate public health trainings

We will keep you abreast of further developments through the newsletter and website.
 Thanks to all for your ongoing commitment to improving the public's health in New Hampshire!

Looking for Money

The Division of Public Health Services and the UNH-Institute for Health Policy & Practices are collaborating to seek funds to support components of the action plans for the groups Monitoring Health Status and Informing and Educating the Public. The Institute is applying to the Centers for Disease Control to expand our capacity to provide data, through web-based applications, at the local level such as through the expansion of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The Division is applying for funds from the National Library of Medicine to create a web-based system through which public health partners can access best practices and health promotion information.

If funded, our hope is to link these two systems so that data can be used for local needs assessment, priorities determined, interventions carried out and evaluated. We will keep you posted. It is a real asset to have the action plans to work from in writing these grants.



Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire

January 2007 Newsletter
Keeping You Informed!

Please send inquiries or feedback to Joan Ascheim:
IPHNH@dhhs.state.nh.us

*A Statewide Effort organized
by the New Hampshire
Department of Health and
Human Services, Division of
Public Health Services*

Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee

Next Meeting:

February 22, 2007
9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Local Government Center
Concord, NH

[Meeting locations, minutes
and agendas are available
on the DHHS website](#)



Hugh Tilson, MD, DrPH
speaking at NH's Summit

About Our Newsletter

Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire! Our newsletter is intended to keep stakeholders informed on key public health planning and performance improvement initiatives in New Hampshire

News from the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP)

Chaired by James Squires, MD, President of the Endowment for Health and Mary Ann Cooney, Director of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), this committee met for the first time on February 3, 2006 to launch a performance improvement plan based on the results of the October 2005 New Hampshire assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS) and is continuing to oversee the planning process.

September 26, 2006

Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire Summit

On September 26, 2006 DPHS and PHIAP convened 120 public health stakeholders from around the state to review the results of [New Hampshire's assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards](#) and begin work on the six strategic priorities identified by PHIAP (see side bar, page 2).

Engaging participants with both wit and wisdom, keynote speaker, Hugh Tilson, MD, DrPH, Senior Advisor to the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, encouraged all to work diligently to use the assessment results and move the public health performance improvement process forward.

Six strategic work groups met for the first time at the summit and began the process of developing action plans for their assigned priorities.

Strategic Work Group Action Plans Completed and Presented to PHIAP

During the months of October to December, more than 150 public health partners met in work groups to craft action plans to address the six strategic priorities. Each group conducted a root cause analysis to determine why their strategic priority had not been sufficiently addressed prior to this improvement process. This analysis proved to be a critical step to clearly identify actions that can lead to substantial gains in each priority area.

Working ambitiously and with tremendous commitment, work group participants completed detailed action plans that identified time frames and potential key partners to complete the work. The completed work plans were presented December 21st to the PHIAP. They can be found at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/iphnh.htm>

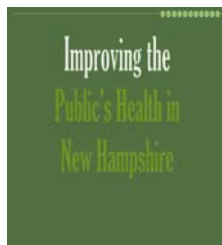
**New Hampshire's Six
Public Health
Performance Strategic
Priorities**

- 1) Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
- 2) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
- 3) Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems
- 4) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- 5) Develop a communication plan
- 6) Workforce Development

Visit Our Website!!!

**Improving the Public's
Health in New Hampshire**
has a website at
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/iphnh.htm>

Report Available:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/LIBRARY/Data-Statistical+Report/nh-health.htm>



Some highlights of the work plans follow.

- To develop consistent health messages on key health issues that can be used by all public health partners
- To establish a data committee to address state and local needs and strategic planning
- To encourage broad-based partnerships to find solutions to multiple public health priorities
- To institutionalize a public health council and planning process through legislation
- To develop a public health communication plan to convey the importance of public health to various audiences
- To develop a system for a competency-based public health workforce

A sincere thanks to all work group members for your commitment of time and energy to this significant initiative. The diversity of opinion, expertise and creativity of the work group members resulted in the development of action plans with great breadth and scope.

Steps to Implementing Action Plans

Operations Committee

In January 2007, an ad-hoc operations committee will meet to make recommendations to implement the action plans developed by the work groups. The committee will be comprised of PHIAP and work group members.

Reconvening Work Group Members

In either February or early March, work group members will be invited to gather to hear from one another about the action plans they developed. Additionally, the operations committee will present their recommendations for implementing the action plans and to determine how the separate plans merge into one cohesive plan. Specifics of the meeting will be disseminated when available.

What is the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative and How Does it Relate to the Public Health Improvement Process?

The NH Citizens Health Initiative seeks to create a system of care that promotes health, where quality is assured and care is accessible, affordable, effective, and safe.

The NH Citizens Health Initiative has three goals:

- Promoting improved health and disease prevention
- Improving the quality of health care
- Promoting openness of information

One area where our two initiatives intersect is in our common goal to communicate health messages to the public on key contributors to poor health such as lack of physical activity or tobacco use. The NH Citizens Initiative is listed as a key partner in the action plan of work group one – To Inform, Educate and Empower People on Health Issues. We will work closely together to develop and disseminate public health prevention messages. For more information on the NH Citizens Health Initiative visit their website at <http://www.steppingupnh.org/hhsonline/nhchi/index.asp>